

REMARKS/DISCUSSION OF ISSUES

By this Amendment, Applicants cancel claims 3-5 and 8 without disclaimer of the underlying subject matter or prejudice against future prosecution. Applicants also amend claims 1, 2, 6, 7, 9 and 10 and add new claims 11-21. Accordingly, claims 1-2, 6-7, and 9-21 are pending in the application.

Applicants thank the Examiner for acknowledging the claim for priority and receipt of certified copies of the priority documents.

The Examiner is respectfully requested to state whether the drawings are acceptable.

Applicants note the acknowledgement that claim 6 defines patentable subject matter and would be allowable if rewritten to be in independent form including all features of its base claim and any intervening claims. By this Amendment, Applicants amend claim 6 to be in independent form including all features of its base claim and any intervening claims. Therefore claim 6 is deemed to be in condition for allowance.

Reexamination and reconsideration are respectfully requested in view of the following Remarks.

35 U.S.C. § 112

By this Amendment, Applicants amend claims 7 and 10.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that the rejections of claims 7 and 10 under 35 U.S.C. § 112 are overcome, and their withdrawal is respectfully requested.

CLAIM OBJECTIONS

By this Amendment, Applicants amend claims 1, 2 and 10.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that the objections to claims 1, 2 and 10 are overcome, and their withdrawal is respectfully requested.

35 U.S.C. §§ 102 & 103

The Office Action rejects claims 1 and 7 under 35 U.S.C. § 102 over Newman, Jr. et al. U.S. Patent Application Publication 2003/0107332 ("Newman"), and claims 2, 9 and 10 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 over Newman.

Applicants respectfully submit that all of the pending claims 1, 2, 7, 9 and 10 are patentable over Newman for at least the following reasons.

Claim 1

Among other things, in the circuit of claim 1, the primary circuit includes a periodic pulse generator connected to the switch and configured to apply a series of periodic pulses to the switch for periodically turning on the switch.

Applicants respectfully submit that Newman does not disclose a circuit including such a periodic pulse generator, and in particular, Applicants respectfully submits that Newman's control circuit 882 is not a periodic pulse generator that is configured to apply a series of periodic pulses to the switch for periodically turning on the switch 24.

Therefore, for at least these reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 1 is patentable over Newman. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of claim 1 be withdrawn and claim 1 be allowed at this time.

Claims 2, 9 and 10

Claims 2, 9 and 10 depend from claim 1 and are deemed to be patentable over claim 1 for at least the reasons set forth above with respect to claim 1.

Claim 7

Among other things, in the circuit of claim 1, the primary circuit includes a diode reverse connected across the switch so as to conduct a reverse current through the primary side of the transformer when the switch is turned off.

The Office Action states, without any support, evidence or explanation, that providing a diode in parallel with Newman's switch would have been "*within a skilled artisan*" for the purpose or protecting the switch from being turned on unintentionally. Applicants traverse this. First, the Office Action does not explain how or why Newman's switch 24 could be "turned on unintentionally" such that anyone would

even think to connect a diode in parallel with switch 24. Secondly, it is not known or understood how a diode reverse connected across the switch would in fact protect switch 24 from being turned on unintentionally. Such a diode will only be turned on by a small reverse voltage across the switch. Thirdly, Newman does not suggest that such a diode should conduct a reverse current through the primary side of the transformer when the switch 24 is turned off.

Therefore, for at least these reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 7 is patentable over Newman. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of claim 7 be withdrawn and claim 7 be allowed at this time.

NEW CLAIMS 11-21

New claims 11-21 depend variously from claims 1 and 6 and are deemed to be patentable for at least the reasons set forth above with respect to claims 1 and 6.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing explanations, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider and reexamine the present application, allow claims 1-2, 6-7, and 9-21 and pass the application to issue. In the event that there are any outstanding matters remaining in the present application, the Examiner is invited to contact Kenneth D. Springer (Reg. No. 39,843) at (571) 283.0720 to discuss these matters.

Respectfully submitted,

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